

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Local news programming should serve local needs with objective reporting on those issues of interest and concern in those markets. Owners of these outlets should NOT use their control of programming to press a corporate agenda or particular political point of view. Broadcasting a non-objective, partisan program (especially one that has already been rejected by national broadcasters for concerns about its credibility) represents exactly the sort of irresponsibility (or worse, outright abuse) of the media by a consolidated operator. It's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.